

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY - PLEVEN FACULTY OF MEDICINE CENTER OF DISTANCE LEARNING

LECTURE № 1

DIARRHOEAL SYNDROME WITH PARASITIC ETIOLOGY IN TROPICAL REGIONS

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- ✓ Diseases with diarrhoeal syndrome are one of the most widely spread pathological conditions in the countries with tropical and subtropical climate.
- ✓ They rank second as diseases causing death, after those
 of the cardiovascular system.
- ✓ According to WHO data, diseases with diarrhoeal syndrome affect about 1 billion children a year under the age of 14, and about one and a half million of these children die.
- ✓ The problem is especially relevant to tropical and subtropical countries, where children get diarrhea 10 to 20 times a year.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS IMPACT ON POPULATION HEALTH:

- ✓ High temperature, soil and water properties, characteristics of vegetation and wildlife favoring the existence of viruses, bacteria, plasmodia, amoebae, trypanosomes, schistosomes, ankylostomes and other causing agents of infectious diseases.
- ✓ Some transmissive carriers of infectious and parasitic diseases such as glossines, phlebotomuses, mosquitoes, etc. might exist only in the tropical conditions.
- ✓ Favorable living conditions for the specific, intermediate and reservoir hosts of infectious diseases agents.

INFLUENCE OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS:

- ✓ Underdeveloped economics;
- ✓ Lower level of sanitation culture;
- ✓ Inadequate organization of health services;

High morbidity rates → high child mortality rate → high birth rate

- → deepening of the social and demographic problems:
- Overcrowded housings;
- Chronic malnutrition avitaminosis, dysproteinemia, etc.;

Unfavorable terrain for the development of the diseases.

Diarrhoea is characterized by more frequent passing of loose or watery stools. The four functions of the intestinal tract - secretion, digestion, absorption and motility are disrubted.

WHO defines diarrhoeal syndrome as follows:

"Any increase in the frequency of defecations above three a day, with changes in the quality and quantity of faeces such as consistency, volume, colour, smell, and pathological admixtures (mucus, blood, pus) and weight loss"

The etiology of the diarrhoeal syndrome is associated with a wide variety of causes. There are many exogenous, endogenous, chemical, physiological, microbial, parasitic and other agents that lead to diarrhoea. Infectious diarrhoeas have bacterial, viral and parasitic etiology.

This presentation will focus on parasitic tropical diseases, accompanied by diarrhoea, and their classification is based on the localization of the pathological process in the intestinal tract.

PARASITIC ENTERITES

GIARDIASIS ENTERITIS

Giardiasis is a cosmopolitan widespread invasion caused by single-cell intestinal parasite *Giardia intestinalis* (lamblia). The clinically presented forms pass as acute enteritis, but not rarely there are cases of parasite carriership.

ETIOLOGY

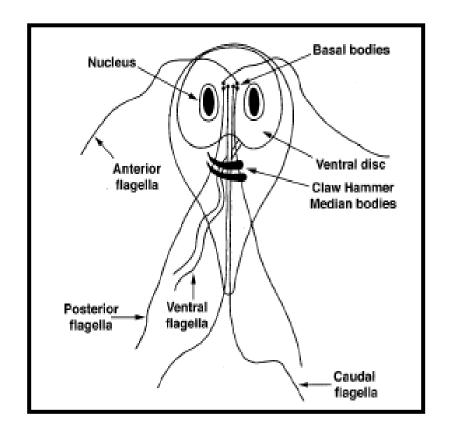
The causative agent of this condition is Giardia intestinalis.



It is a single-cell parasite, found in two forms: vegetative and cystic.

The vegetative mobile form is found in the small intestine of humans.

The cystic form is excreted via the faeces and is invasive in its nature.



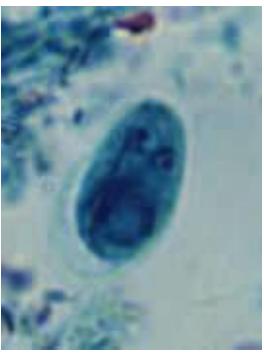


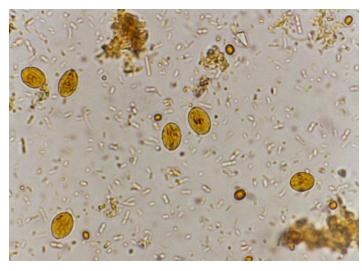
The vegetative mobile form (trofozoite):

- pear-shaped form;
- 10-28 μ m long and 6 8 μ m wide;
- 2 nuclei;
- median bodies, sucking discs and four pairs of flagella.

- the cyst form are ellipsoidal;
- double layer;
- 8 14 μ m long and 7 10 μ m wide;
- they possess 4 nuclei.



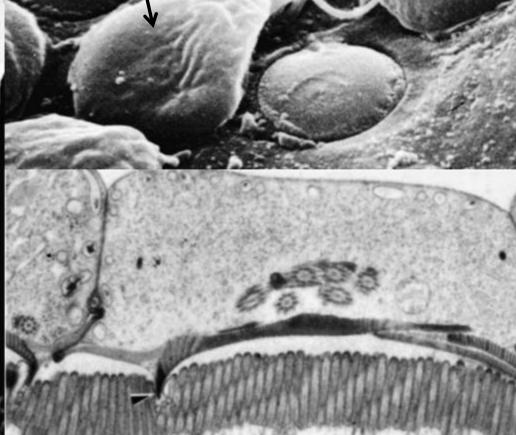




sucking disc

dorsal surface of parasite





ventral surface of the body

Giardia intestinalis - trophozoit and cyst





EPIDEMIOLOGY

The source of infection: humans and animals, both carriers, or presenting with clinical symptoms of the condition;

The mechanism of transmission is fecal-oral.

Cysts are ingested with contaminated food, drinking water, dirty hands, etc.

All humans are susceptible to G. intestinalis.

PATHOGENESIS

- 1. Mechanic and traumatic lesions.
- 2. Neuroreflexive effects.
- 3. Toxic and allergic disturbances.

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

- 1. Mucosa inflammation and ulceration.
- 2. General intoxication hematopoietic, cardio-vascular, nervous systems.
- 3. Disturbed resorption fats, proteins, carbohydrates.
- 4. Disturbed secretion impaired membrane digestion.

PATHOLOGOANATOMY

- 1. Hyperemia.
- 2. Necrotic ulcers.
- 3. Intestinal villi atrophy.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

SYMPTOMS	FREQUENCY (%)		
Diarrhoea	93-96		
Weakness	72-80		
Weight loss	62-73		
Abdominal pain	61-77		
Nausea	59-60		
Steatorrhoea	55-57		
Meteorism	30-33		
Vomiting	20-29		
High fever	9-17		

DIAGNOSIS

Materials for investigation:

- stool samples (for detections of cysts and trophozoites).
- duodenal juice (bile C) for detection of trophozoites.

Methods of investigation:

Microscopy:

- native preparation (for vegetative forms).
- -cysts are identified using a lugol solution.

The formalin-ether (concentration) method is also used to detect cysts.

ETIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

The following medicines are commonly used:



Metronidazole (Trichomonacid, Flagyl) -

tabl. 0.250 g. Adults are given 1.5 - 2 g daily, divided into 3 doses to be taken after meals for 5 to 7 days. The daily dose for children is 15-20 mg/kg body weight for 5 to 7 days.

Tinidazol (Fasigyn) - tabl. 0.500 g. In adults, a single dose of 2 g (4 tablets) is prescribed.

The single dose for children is 50 mg/kg body weight.





ETIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

Nitazoxanid (Alinia) - tabl. 0.500 g, or suspension of 100 mg/5ml. The dose prescribed is 500 mg three times a

day for 3-5 days, and for children it is 20 mg/kg body weight for 3-5 days.

Albendazol (Zentel) - tabl. 0.400 g. The daily dose is 10 mg/kg body weight for 3-5 days.

After treatment with a drug, three parasitology tests are performed at 10-day intervals.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM ENTERITIS CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

Cryptosporidiosis is a protozoan infection, that is accompanied by diarrhea. The causative agents of this parasitosis are coccidia of the Cryptosporidium genus. The average rate of parasite carriership in tropical countries varies between 4% and 20%.

ETIOLOGY

Type Protozoa
Class Apicomplexa
Subclass Coccidia
Family Cryptosporidiidae
Genus Cryptosporidium

Species:

Cryptosporidium parvum - people, cattle
Cryptosporidium hominis - people
Cryptosporidium muris - mice, cattle
Cryptosporidium baleily - hens
Cryptosporidium nasorum - fish
Cryptosporidium serpentis - snake

BIOLOGY

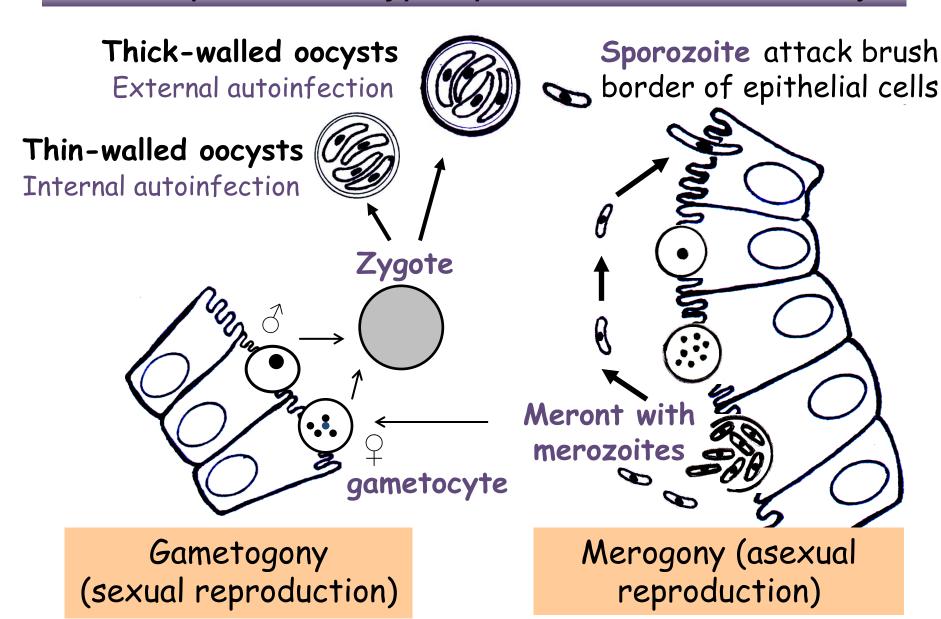
- intracellular parasites (in the enterocytes);
- multiply in parasitoform vacuole;
- multiply in one host (monoxenic parasite);
- schizogony (asexual reproduction);
- gametogony (sexual reproduction);
- sporulation (maturing and becoming invasive);

It is formed:

- thin-walled oocysts providing the internal autoinvasion;
- thick-walled oocysts infecting the environment.

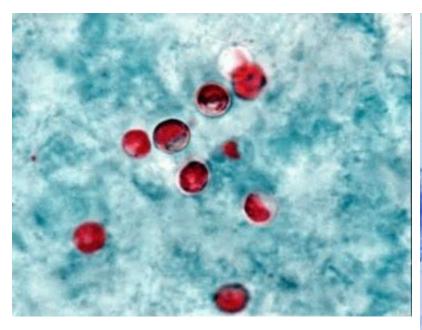
Sporulated oocysts contain 4 sporozoites with banana-like shape, parallel to each other.

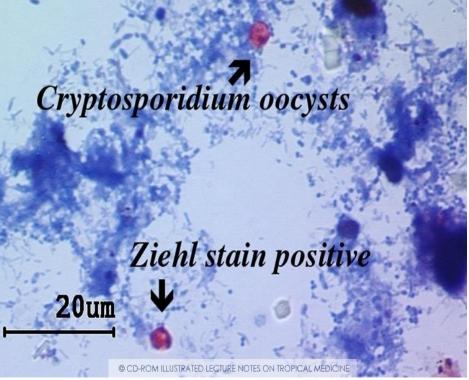
Development of *Cryptosporidium* in human body



The thick-walled oocysts have:

- oval or round in shape;
- 6 8 μm in size;
- double lipoprotein membrane;





DISTRIBUTION

- cosmopolite parasitosis;
- 1% 3% in Europe and North America;
- 5% 10% in Asia and Africa;
- 10% 20% in AIDS patients;
- water outbreak of Cryptosporidiosis in Milwaukee (USA) with 400 000 ill.

In Bulgaria:

- 3.9% in children from rural regions;
- people, returning from the tropical countries;
- Bulgarian AIDS patients

SOURCE OF INFECTION

✓ Domestic animals - zoonotic diseases (sheep, goats, cattle, dogs, cats), rodents;
 ✓ Infected humans (carriers or with clinical symptoms);

MECHANISM OF TRANSMISSION

- ✓ faecal-oral;
- ✓ airborne transmission possible (pulmonary forms of the disease);
- √ anal-oral (among homosexuals);

FACTORS OF TRANSMISSION

- hands, contaminated with oocysts;
- fruit and vegetables;
- water and etc.

PATHOGENESIS

- localization in the small intestine (enteritis);
- affected enterocytes in the apical part of intestinal villi;
- destruction of enterocytes;
- replacement by immature enterocytes;
- enzyme deficiency (enzymopathy);
- violations in the breakdown of fats and carbohydrates;
- bacterial fermentation of carbohydrates;
- reduced absorption;
- increased water content in the intestinal lumen;
- osmotic fermentative diarrhoea;

PATHOLOGY

- atrophy of the villi;
- elongation of the crypts;
- infiltration of mononuclear cells into the lamina propria.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

- 1 Asymptomatic carriers.
- 2. Clinically relevant forms: light, medium and heavy.

CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS IN IMMUNOCOMPETENT PATIENTS

Incubation period - 5 - 28 days;

- diarrhoea defecation up to 5-10 a day;
- nausea and vomiting;
- abdominal pain;
- febrility;
- self-limiting complaints 2-14 days.

CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS IN IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PATIENTS

- choleric type of diarrhoea 10-15 bowel movements a day;
- rapid dehydration;
- weight loss;
- death.

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS FREQUENCY

SYMPTOMS	AIDS	OTHER IMMUNE DEFICIENCY	HEALTHY SUBJECTS
DIARRHOEA	70	69	33
ABDOMINAL PAIN	36	55	11
VOMITING	36	29	12
TEMPERATURE	39	22	10
FAINTNESS	21	24	7

In case when cryptosporidia cysts are excreted for more than one month, WHO recommendations are to investigate the immune status of the patient.

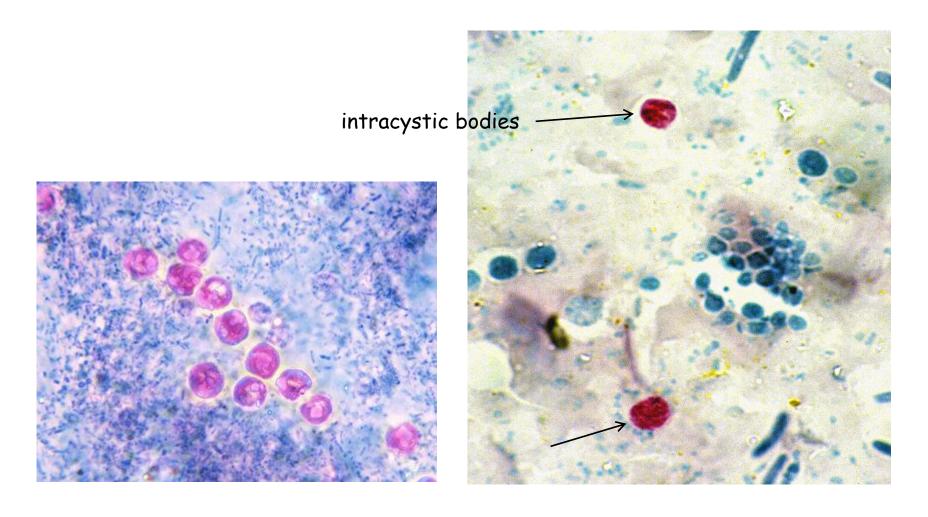
DIAGNOSIS

Material for investigation: stool sample, blood serum. Methods of investigation:

- I. Microscopic methods:
- 1. Concentration methods:
- the formalin-ether method;
- floatation with 33% ZnSO₄
- 2. Staining methods:
- selective staining after Ziehl Neelsen;
- staining with Giemza-Romanovsky.

II. Immunological methods:

- 1. Detection of cryptosporidium antigen in human feces
- 2. Detection of specific serum antibodies:
- ELISA;
- IFR.



Oocysts, 6 - 8 μ m in size, contain intracystic bodies

ETIOLOGICAL TREATMENT

- Rovamycin tabl. 3 000 000 IU
 9 000 000 IU daily, 7 days
- Paromomycin tabl. 500 mg,
 1.5 2 g daily, 2 weeks
- Nitazoxanid (Alinia) tabl. 500 mg;
 adults 3 x 500 mg 5 days;
 children 20mg/kg daily 5 days;

CYSTOISOSPOROUS ENTERITES

(CYSTOISOSPORIASIS)

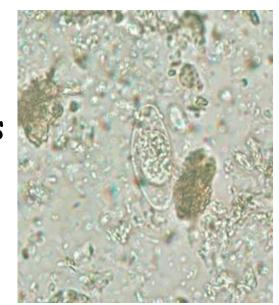
Cystoisosporiasis is protozoonosis caused by coccidia of genus *Cystoisospora* and it is asymptomatic or with symptoms of enteritis.

One of the main AIDS- associated **opportunistic** infections not only in the tropical countries but also in those with temperate climate.

ETIOLOGY

The causative agent of Cystoisosporiasis are:

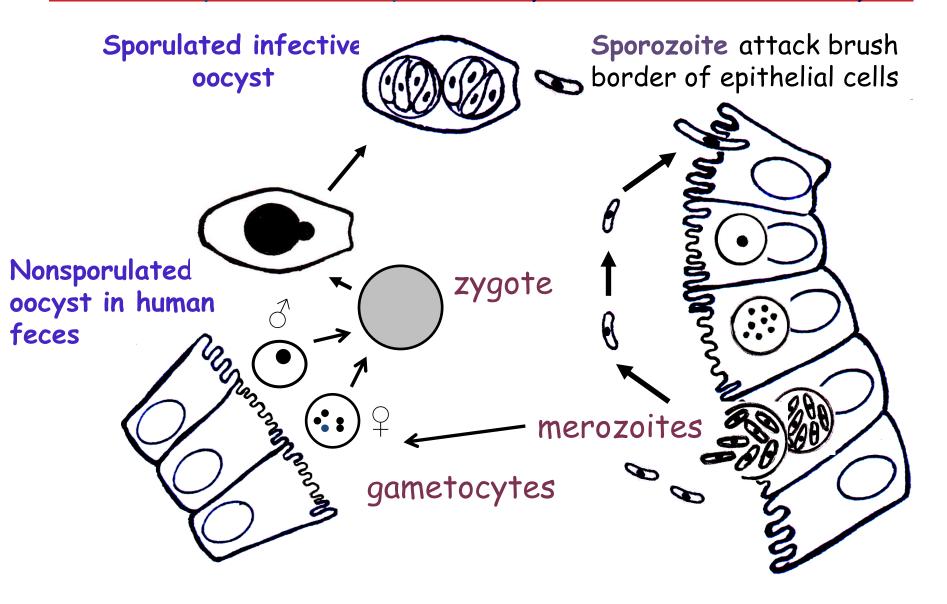
- Cystoisospora belii
- Cystoisospora natalensis



Perform complex sexual and asexual cycle of development in the gastrointestinal tract of humans.

Nonsporulated oocysts, with slightly elongated form and 25-33 μ m by 12-16 μ m in size are excreted in the stools of an infected individual.

Development of Cystoisospora in human body



DISTRIBUTION

Cystoisosporiasis has been registered in many regions of the world, but it is more common in tropical countries.

Opportunistic parasitosis in AIDS patients:

- 0.2 to 3 % in such patients in the USA;
- 8 to 20 % of AIDS patients in Africa.

PATHOGENESIS AND PATHOLOGY

The pathological process affects mucosa epithelial cells of the distal duodenum and the enterocytes of the proximal jejunum.

- ✓ intracellular parasite;
- ✓ lesions of the mucosa:
- ✓ shortened microvilli;
- √ hypertrophied crypts;
- ✓ infiltration of the lamina propria by eosinophils and polinuclear leucocytes;

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Cystoisosporiasis is asymptomatic in immunocompetent

individuals, or is a mild, self-limited diarrhoeal syndrome.

In cases of AIDS, the disease is protracted and has a well-expressed clinical presentation.

- ✓ multiple diarrhoeal passages;
- √ abdominal pain;
- ✓ anorexia;
- ✓ nausea and vomiting;
- √ general tiredness;
- ✓ fever;
- √ malabsorbtion;
- ✓ weight loss and etc.

DIAGNOSIS

Material of investigation: stool samples, biopsy material collected from intestinal mucosa.

Methods of investigation:

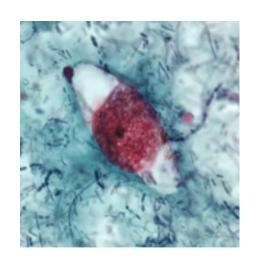
- Native preparation of stool samples
- Staining after Lugol's solution structures staining in the different shades of the yellowish-brown range.

Concentration methods:

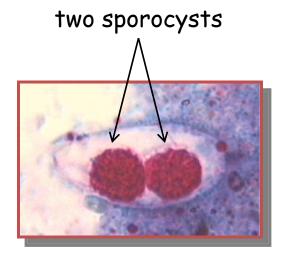
- FEM
- floatation with 33% ZnSO₄
- sporulation with 5% potassium dichromate;

Staining methods:

- selective staining after *Ziehl Neelsen*; Pinkish-purple oocysts are detected on green background.







Oocysts of Cystoisopora belli

TREATMENT

Trimethoprim/Sulfamethoxazole (Biseptol)

tabl. 480 mg

 4×2 tabl. daily, 10 days., and then

 2×2 tabl. daily, 3 weeks

Alternatives for treatment include:

Pyrimethamine (75 mg/day) + Folinic acid (10 mg/day)

Ciprofloxacin - 500 mg twice daily for 7 days

Metronidazole + Pyrimethamine

CYCLOSPORIASIS ENTERITIS (CYCLOSPORIOSIS)

Cyclosporiasis enteritis is coccidial parasitic disease, accompanied by diarrhoeal syndrome and is seen in tropical and subtropical countries. The causing agent for disease in humans is Cyclospora cayetanensis, first described in 1977 in Papua New Guinea.

ETIOLOGY

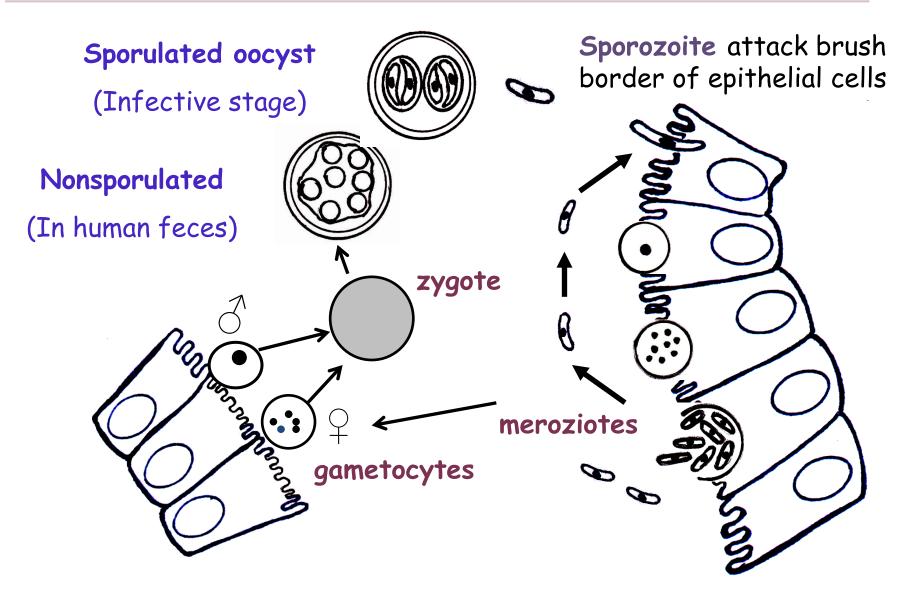
Phylum Apicomplexa
Class Coccidia
Genus Cyclospora
Kind Cyclospora cayetanensis

BIOLOGICAL CYCLE

- Merogony (asexual stage);
- Gametogony (sexual stage);
- Sporulation (mature).

Sporulated oocysts are 7-8 µm in size and contain 2 sporocysts, each having 2 elongated sporozoites

Development of Cyclospora cayetanensis in human body



DISTRIBUTION AND EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Tropical and subtropical regions;
- Nepal 10-20% of the cases of diarrhoea;
- Lima and Peru 6% 18%;
- Haiti 11.3% of the cases of diarrhoea;
- USA 0.2% 0.3%;
- often AIDS associated (opportunistic parasitosis).

Source of infection - human (carriers or with clinical symptoms).

Mechanism of transmission - fecal-oral.

Factors of transmission - contaminated with oocyst fruit and vegetables, water, hands, etc.

Susceptibility - total. More frequently in children, age 2 and AIDS patients.

PATHOGENESIS

Diarrhoea with secretory mechanism:

- invasion of enterocytes;
- epithelial cells secrete cytokines (interleukin 8);
- local and blood phagocytes activation;
- increase of the intestinal secretion of chlorides and water;
- absorption reduction;
- enterocytes destruction;
- villi atrophy, crypts hyperplasia;
- lactose and ferments deficiency;
- bacterial fermentation of carbohydrates;
- malabsorption;
- fermentative-osmotic diarrhoea;
- water-and-salt loss.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Asymptomatic invasion – immunocompetent and immunocompromised persons.

Clinically presented form:

Incubation period 1 to 11 days

- acute onset 68%;
- gradual onset 32%;
- moderate watery diarrhoea (8 bowel movements a day);
- nausea;
- abdominal pain;
- meteorism;
- moderate weight loss;
- weakness;
- muscle pains;
- fever (25% of the patients).

- Immunocompetent people several days to one month with a self-limiting nature of diarrhea;
- AIDS and other states of lowered immunity diarrhoea may persist for weeks, months, in some cases a whole year.

DIAGNOSTICS

Materials

- √ faeces (fresh and preserved)
- √ duodenal content
- √ biological sample

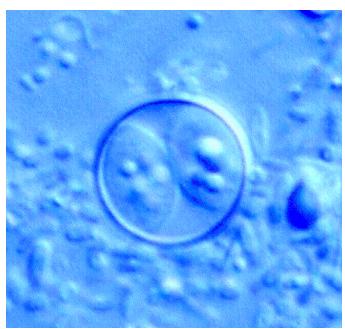
Methods

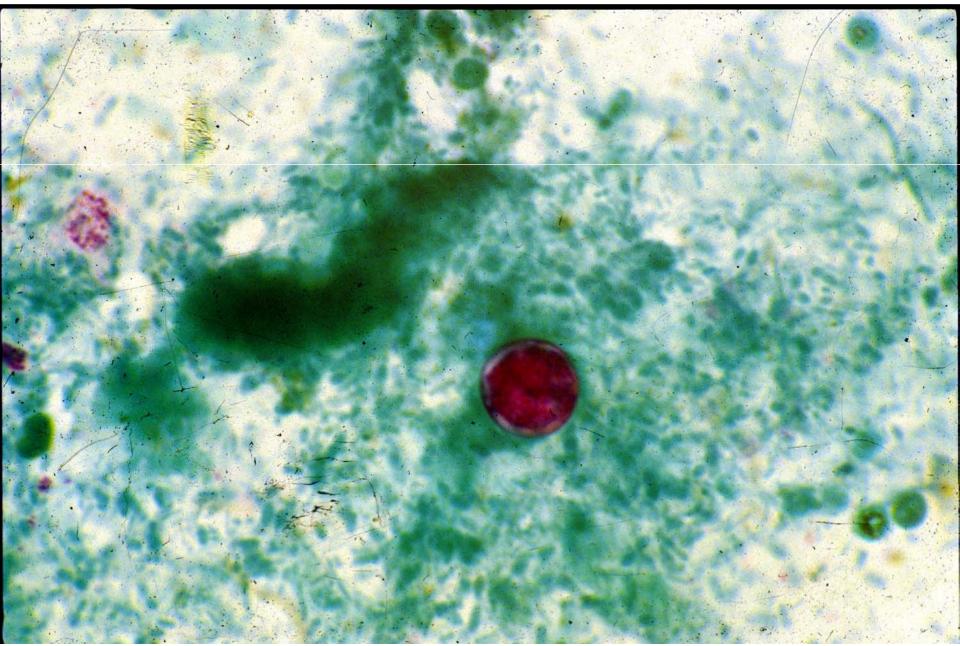
- RIF
- Modified Ziehl-Neelson
- specific formations, 8-10 μ m;
- red, pink, colorless;
- outer membrane diffracting light;
- internal granulated structures
- autofluorescence bluish-green color











TREATMENT

Trimethiprim/Sulfamethoxazole (Biseptol)

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tabl. 120, 480 mg
4 tabl. daily, 10 days
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Nitazoxanide (Alinia)

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tabl. 500 mg
7.5 mg/kg - 5 days;
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Ciprofloxacin

tabl. 500 mg 2 x 500 mg - 10 days

PARASITIC COLITIDIS

AMOEBIAL COLITIS (AMOEBIASIS)

Amoebiasis is a protozoan invasion, accompanied by a diarrhoeal syndrome, amoebic abscesses in organs, or as an asymptomatic carriership.

SPREAD AND IMPORTANCE

Amoebiasis is a universal parasitosis but it is most common in tropical and subtropical countries, where carriership is 10 to 72%. According to WHO data, approximately 480 million people in the world are infected with *Entamoeba histolytica*. Of these, 10% have amoebiasis every year, and 40-110 thousand die from an intestinal or extraintestinal form of the disease.

ETIOLOGY

Type Protozoa

Class Sarcodina

Genus Entamoeba

Species:

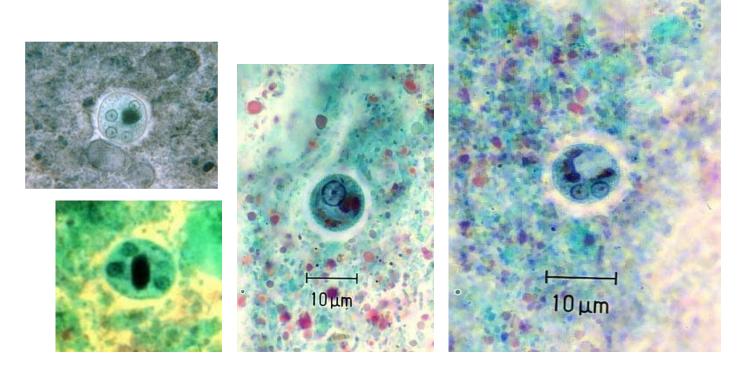
- Entamoeba histolytica virulent strain;
- Entamoeba dispar avirulent strain;

Entamoeba histolytica includes two basic stages:

trophozoite (vegetative form) and cyst.

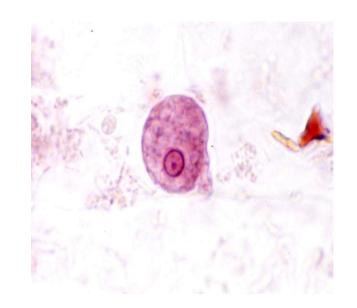
The trophozoite is presented by two morphological forms: commensal form (lumin form) and

invasive form (tissue form).

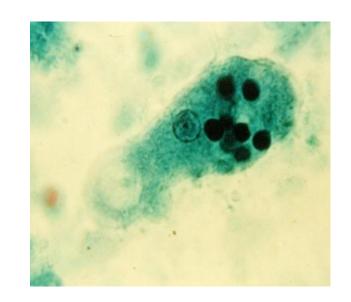


Cyst form (8-15 μ m). They are round or ellipsoidal, and possess a double-layer coating and 1-4 nuclei. A mature cyst, capable of invading, possesses 4 nuclei. Immature cysts contain glycogen mass and small chromatoid bodies, resembling rods with bluntly pointed ends.

Commensal form (small, lumen form) - $15\text{-}20~\mu\text{m}$. It is found in stool samples of persons having asymptomatic amoebiasis and patients with amoebic dysentery during remission periods.



Invasive form (large form, tissue form) – $20\text{-}60\mu\text{m}$. This form is isolated in diarrhoeal stools of patients with acute amoebic dysentery. It differs from the lumen form in that it is larger in size and contains phagocytiized erythrocytes.



PATHOGENESIS

- colonization of the intestines;
- the destruction of the intestinal mucosal barrier;
- disrupt the adhesive connections between the cells;
- release of amoebic cytotoxins and enterotoxins;
- necrosis and formation of microabscesses;
- the microabscesses evolve into ulcers;
- hematogenic migration to the other organs.

PATHOLOGY





The typical amoebic ulcers are irregular in shape, with a wide basal part, a small orifice, and slightly elevated ends, a necrotic bottom part, which is often covered with a yellowish pussy coating.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

There are mild, moderate or fulminant forms of the disease.

ACUTE INTESTINAL AMOEBIASIS

(Amoebic dysentery)

- Incubation period 1-3 weeks;
- gradually increases of defecation to 15 or even more;
- the stools are slurry or liquid;
- dysentery mucus jelly-like form mucus and blood;
- defecation in accompanied by intestinal pain;
- tenesmus;
- general weakness;
- febrility;
- nausea and vomiting;
- dehydration;

CHRONIC INTESTINAL AMOEBIASIS

- non-specific functional colonopathy;
- the number of defecations gradually decreases;
- exacerbations are frequent of complaints;
- development of asthenic syndrome;
- general weakness;
- cachexia;
- anemia;

DIAGNOSIS

Material for investigation: stool sample, mucus from ulcer, biopsy sample, blood serum.

Methods of investigation:

Microscopy:

- native preparation (for vegetative forms);
- the formalin-ether (concentration) method is also used to detect cysts;
- cysts are identified using a lugol's solution.

Staining methods: staining after Lawless, Heidenchein and with trichrome (for trophozoites and cysts).

Culture method (Pavlova method)

Serological investigation - ELISA, RIF, PCR.

TREATMENT

Etiological treatment of acute amoebiasis (amoebic dysentery).

Trichomonacid (*Metronidazol, Flagyl*) tabl. 250 mg - the drug of choice.

It is applied in daily doses of 2-2.250 g for 5-10 days. It can be prescribed in combination with *Tetracycline* at a daily dose of 1-2 g (divided into 4).

Fasigyn (Tinidazolum) tabl. 500 mg, is also effective. Doses of 2.0 g daily for three days are prescribed.

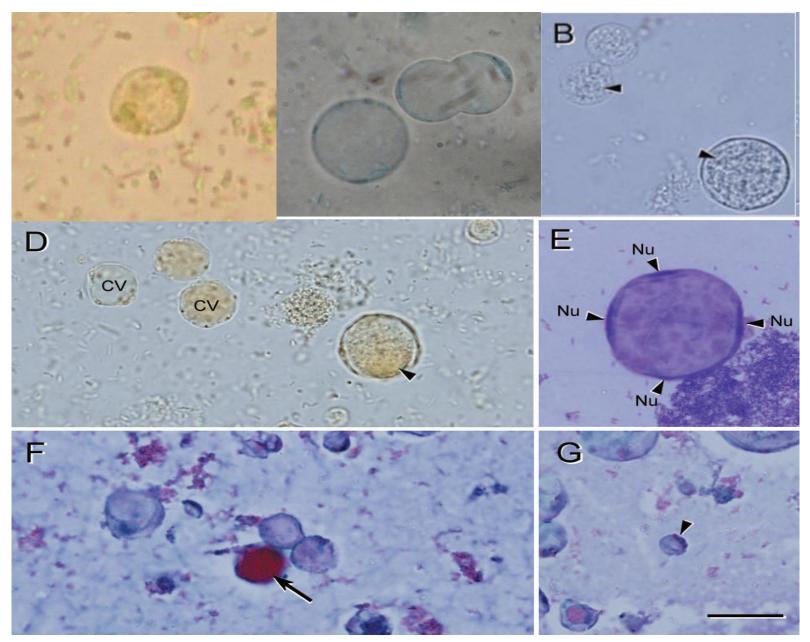
COLITIS CAUSED BY BLASTOCYSTIS SP. (BLASTOCYSTOSIS)

Blastocystosis is an intestinal protozoonosis widely spread throughout the world. Most often it is detected as an asymptomatic carriership, and though rarely, there occur clinically manifested forms with abdominal pains, meteorism, acute or chronic diarrhoea.

ETIOLOGY

Blastocystosis is caused by a unicelluler parasite, *Blastocystis sp.* which has 9 genetically different subtypes.

Four morphological forms of *Blastocystis sp.* - vacuolar, granular, ameboid and cystic are detected by light and electron microscopy.



PATHOGENESIS

The pathogenic potential of *Blastocystis sp.* has been debatable for a long time.

The pathogenesis of diarrhoea is related to:

- the number of parasites in the intestinal tract;
- toxic and allergic reactions lead to a non-specific inflammation of the lining of the large intestine.
- the genotype affiliation of the parasite;
- strain virulence and pathogenicity;
- the interactions of the parasite with the normal intestinal flora;
- the cellular and humoral immune response of the host (opportunistic parasitosis).

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Blastocystosis may be asymptomatic or clinically manifested form.

The clinically manifested Blastocystosis is characterized with:

- acute or chronic diarrhoea;
- 4-15 episodes in 24-hour period with slurry or watery and slimy stools;
- self-limiting diarrhoea in immunocompetent individuals;
- protracted diarrhoea (1-3-6 months) in immunocompromised patients;
- meteorism;
- colicky abdominal pains;
- painful tenesmuses;
- nausea and vomiting;
- clinically manifested allergy.

DIAGNOSIS

Samples for investigation: fresh stool samples, intestinal content (ileum, caecum), biopsy sample and blood serum.

Microscopy methods:

- native preparation of stools with physiological solution.
- native preparation stained with lugol's solution.
- trichrome staining the cytoplasm turns bluish-green and the nuclei becomes red.
- Romaniowski-Gimsa staining- the cytoplasm of the parasite is basophilic and turns blue and the nuclei turn red.

Culture methods - culture media of Diamond, Loeffler, Jones.

The medium of choice for identifying the parasite is the culture medium of Jones.

Immunological methods - ELISA, IRF, Western blotting.

Biomolecular methods - conventional PCR

TREATMENT

DRUGS	PHARMACEUTICAL FORM	DOSE
Metronidazole	tabl. 250 and 500 mg;	Adult: 1,5 - 2,0 g - 7 days
(Flagyl, Trihomonacid)	susp. 200 mg/5 ml	Children: 15 mg/kg - 7 days
Tinidazole (Flagyl)	tabl. 500 mg;	Adult: 2.0 g a single dose; Children: 50 mg/kg
TMP/SMX (Co-	tabl. 120 mg;	Adult: 4 tabl./24 h 10 days
trimoxazole, Biseptol)	tabl. 480 mg;	children: 35mg/kg - 10 days
Paromomycin	tabl. 250 mg;	Adult: 1500 mg/24 h 10 days;
(Humatin, Gabroral)	susp. 100 ml (250 mg/5 ml);	Children: 30 mg/kg/24 h 7 days;
Jodoquinol (Yodoxin)	tabl. 650 mg;	3 tabl. daily , 20 days

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